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GEORGE DeCOU





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# HISTORICAL SKETCHES

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## CROSSWICKS

and

## NEIGHBORHOOD

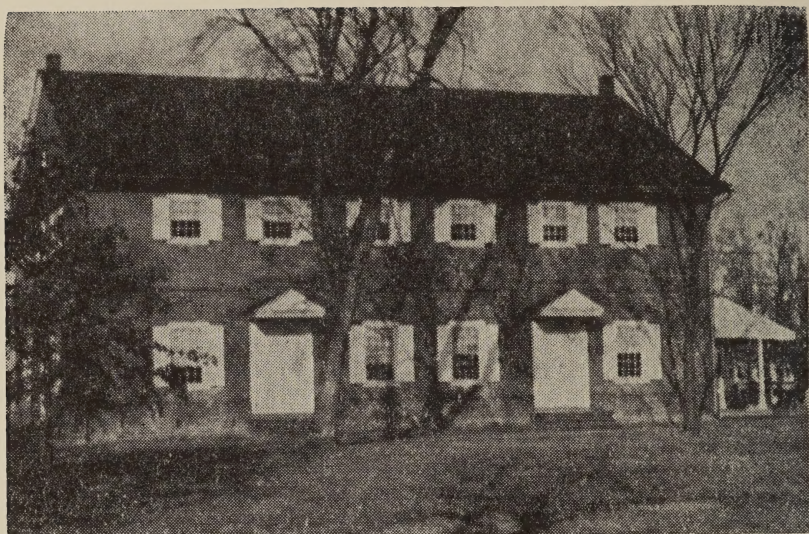
by

GEORGE DECOU

*Author of*

MOORESTOWN AND HER NEIGHBORS  
BURLINGTON: A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL  
THE HISTORIC RANCOCAS

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Friends' Meeting House at Crosswicks, N. J.  
Erected in 1773



## FOREWORD

George DeCou's writing of "Historical Sketches of Crosswicks and Neighborhood" ends abruptly due to his death on October 6, 1950. However, from a study of his notes, it may be presumed that the article was near its completion and may now go on record as his last historical endeavor. On a number of occasions he spoke to me of the significance of Crosswicks in history, which too often had been passed over by historians, and his concern was great to write these sketches.

Perhaps his concern was prompted somewhat by sentimental attachment. As a Jersey farm boy and later as a "young blade" from Trenton, he traveled these country roads; these people were his friends and relatives. Fond and pleasant were memories of the Hendrickson house in Crosswicks where his cousins lived. So, the writing of this pamphlet was for George DeCou a labor of love as each of his books was for him a labor of love.

In editing the manuscript I have followed the text faithfully; even the title page is as he set it up. Most of the corrections were typographical and minor and in the few instances where there was doubt, the correction was made after a careful study of the three separate drafts which he had prepared over a considerable period of time.

My sisters and I are indebted to Mrs. Wilfred B. Wolcott without whose interest and assistance this pamphlet might never have reached the public. Our grateful thanks are extended to the Burlington County Historical Society for undertaking the publication of these Historical Sketches of Crosswicks and Neighborhood.

Frances B. de Cou

West Hartford, Conn.

September 26, 1955





# HISTORICAL SKETCHES

## OF

### CROSSWICKS AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Crosswicks was settled by Friends from the British Isles early in the 1680's. Francis Davenport, Samuel and John Bunting, Thomas Foulk, Richard Harrison, Thomas Gilberthorpe and Thomas Wright were among the early settlers of Chesterfield Township and of Crosswicks. The name, Crosswicks, is a corruption of *Crossweeksung*, an Indian name, meaning "a divided creek." Barber & Howe's Historical Collections of New Jersey, 1844, states that the name means "The house of separation." I prefer "a divided creek," as Crosswicks Creek divides in two streams near Yardville. Dr. Dorothy Cross, an authority on the Indians, prefers the latter definition.

Main Street follows an old Indian trail, along which the natives pitched their villages and camps. Many Indian relics have been found on Crosswicks Creek. The Indians always selected a site along a stream or near a spring for their camp sites. Crosswicks was one of David Brainerd's stations. He converted many of the Crosswicks Indians to Christianity. His principal station was near Cranbury and was called Bethel. The exposed life was too much for him and he died of tuberculosis in about three years. He was succeeded by his brother John Brainerd who eventually was appointed by the Governor Superintendent of the Reservation at Indian Mills.

The native Indians undoubtedly belonged to the Unami Tribe, whose principal village was on the Delaware, a little south of Trenton. Dr. Frank Wright of Moorestown, who has an exceptionally fine collection of Indian relics, possesses a stone peace pipe, found near Trenton, that closely resembles a turtle. The Lenni Lenape (pronounced Len-ah-pay), or Delaware Indians, belonged to the Algonkin Nation and was divided into three tribes: the Minsi, the Unami and the Unalachtigo. They were subdivided into numerous clans.

The Minsi (or Munsee) Tribe, totem a wolf, occupied the northern part of New Jersey and was more warlike than their southern neighbors. The Unami Tribe, totem a tortoise, lived in the central part of the state and claimed to be the parent of the Lenapes. According to the mythology of the tribe, a tortoise once carried the earth on its back. The Unalachtigo, totem a turkey, occupied the southern part of New Jersey. The natives called the Delaware River "Lenape-wihittuck," meaning the rapid stream of the Lenape. New Jersey was called "Scheyechbi" (Shay-ak-bee), meaning Long Land Water.

Almost all of the pioneer settlers in Burlington and Mercer Counties were members of the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers as they are frequently called. The Friends treated the Indians kindly and did not have serious trouble with them. It is true that no Quakers were killed by the Indians in colonial America except three or four who had abandoned the Quaker ideal on non-resistance and who were armed or

on the way to the forts. The historian Bancroft says, (Vol. 2, p. 283) "Penn came without arms; he declared his purpose to abstain from violence; he had no message but peace, and not a drop of Quaker blood was ever shed by an Indian."

Brinton, in "The Lenape and Their Legends" (p. 63), said, "They (the Indians) had learned and well understood that the Friends were non-combatants and as such never forgot to spare them even in the bloody scenes of border warfare." Neither authority, as far as I know, was in any way associated with the Society of Friends.

At a conference of the Indians and the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature, held at Crosswicks in 1756, the Indians presented a list of grievances against the whites. The use of large steel traps for catching deer, the building of dams across the streams, selling rum to the Indians and cheating them while under its influence, and the occupancy of land for which they had received no compensation, were the chief complaints. The Legislature appointed a commission to investigate the charges and report at a later session.

The Legislature recognized the justice of their claims and early in 1757 passed a law prohibiting the use of traps weighing more than three and a half pounds; declared that an Indian could not be imprisoned for debt and laid a penalty on all persons selling strong liquor to the Indians "so as to intoxicate them." Later in 1757, sixteen hundred pounds were appropriated to the commissioners to purchase title to the Indian lands in New Jersey. The Indians living south of the Raritan River requested that their share of the purchase money should be used for the buying of a tract of land for their exclusive use. In return they agreed to surrender title to all lands still in their possession.

Another and much larger conference was held with the Indians in the "Great Meeting House" at Crosswicks in 1758. Teedyuscung, King of the Delawares, was present and twenty-seven other Indian kings or sachems. Five Indians were given power of attorney to transact all business with the Legislature concerning land. On August 29, 1758, the commissioners purchased a large tract of land, containing 3044 acres, from Benjamin Springer for 740 pounds. Title was taken by the Province "in trust for the Indians." It was located at Indian Mills in Shamong Township, formerly Evesham, and was the first reservation in the United States under federal or state control.

It is impossible to estimate the number of Indians that there were in Burlington County at the time that the whites arrived early in the 17th Century. It is estimated that there were not over 10,000 in New Jersey. The Indians were a nomadic race. The story of the passing of the New Jersey Indians in less than two hundred years after the first whites arrived is most interesting and at times pathetic. Smallpox, the deadliest of diseases to the natives and early settlers, was a close second to rum as the cause of the downfall of the Indian tribes. The Indians knew nothing about the nature of contagious diseases though skilled in the use of medicinal herbs. The following verses by Lydia H. Sigourney will be found interesting and appropriate:



"Ye say that all have pass'd away,  
 That noble race and brave,  
 That their light canoes have vanish'd  
 From off the crested wave;  
 That 'mid the forests where they roam'd,  
 There rings no hunter's shout;  
 But their name is on your waters,  
 Ye may not wash it out.  
 "Ye say their cone-like cabins,  
 That clustered o'er the vale,  
 Have fled away like wither'd leaves  
 Before the autumn gale;  
 But their memory liveth on your hills,  
 Their baptism on your shore;  
 Your everlasting rivers speak  
 Their dialect of yore."

Several sessions of the General Assembly were held in Crosswicks in 1716 and the early part of 1717, as shown by the following quotation from Allinson's Laws (p. 35):

"At a General Assembly held at Crosswicks from the  
 27th day of November, 1716 to the 25th day of January  
 1716/7 in the Third year of the reign of King George,  
 the First, the following laws were passed: etc. Foot-  
 note. The small-Pox was at Burlington, the usual  
 place of Sitting."

It would be interesting to know where they met; probably in the brick meeting house then standing.

The Hendrickson house on Buttonwood Street is considered the oldest dwelling in Crosswicks. It was erected by Amos Middleton in 1750 and later it came into the Hendrickson family. It is known as the Hendrickson house rather than the Middleton house. The two large Buttonwood trees, one of which is now standing, were planted by Amos Middleton at the time when the house was built. Tradition says that English or Hessian soldiers were quartered in the house when General Clinton camped in Crosswicks.

The weather-boards have been renewed and the small window panes alone suggest that the house was standing at the time of the Revolutionary War. The interior is quaint and historically interesting. The fireplaces, although boarded up in every room, the H & HL hinges and ancient stairway suggest its antiquity.

The Braislins house is also an old house in the village. It is located on the road to Ellisdale. The pent roof on the eastern end and the small window panes are characteristic of the pre-Revolutionary days. It was standing when General Clinton with a large army passed through Crosswicks en route to Monmouth Court House, as Freehold was then called.

Crosswicks Village has a very interesting Revolutionary history. The present old meeting house, owned by the Hicksite Friends, was

occupied by the American and British troops. Quoting from Adjutant General Stryker's book, "The Battles of Trenton and Princeton":

"On December 29 (1776) General Cadwallader left Burlington about two o'clock in the afternoon and marched his column, now about 2100 men to Crosswicks, arriving there at dusk. Having posted his Command in and near the meeting house there he communicated with his Commander-in-Chief and awaited further orders.

"On the first day of January Gen. Cadwallader was directed to join Gen. Washington's army at Trenton. He marched his force along the White Horse Road, crossing Doctor's Creek and the Sand Hills, and, being joined by Gen. Mifflin's division at the White Horse Tavern, the whole column moved on to Trenton."

June 23, 1778 was a memorable and exciting day in the quiet little village of Crosswicks. Sir Henry Clinton with more than 15,000 soldiers, innumerable baggage wagons and camp followers invaded Crosswicks. The covered bridge over Crosswicks Creek was defended by Continental Troops under the command of General Dickenson. Job Clevenger, of the Burlington County Militia, was killed while cutting away the last sleeper to the bridge. He fell into the water while being cheered by his companions for his heroism. The troops were on the way to Monmouth Court House (now Freehold) near which the Battle of Monmouth was fought on June 28.

Colonel Simcoe with a company of the Queen's Rangers was stationed at the Friends meeting house during the skirmish. Several shots were fired by the American Artillery on the north side of the creek, one of which lodged in the north wall. It fell out many years ago but has been replaced so that it may be seen today.

On June 23rd General Clinton issued the following order from his Headquarters:

"The Army will march tomorrow morning. The Corps of Brigadier General Leslie will if possible join the Division at Crosswicks by six o'clock. The 2nd Division under command of his Excellency Lt. General Kniphausen will begin its march at 4 o'clock, the 1st Division will be in readiness to march at six o'clock in the same order as this day."

The Union Fire Company on Main Street was organized in 1822. It possesses an old hand-pump engine marked 1744. It is taken out on special occasions when the Company desires to display it. The engine was once owned by the Union Fire Company, of Philadelphia, organized in 1736, at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin. The buckets and frame of the engine are marked: Un. Fire Co. No. 1, 1744.

Crosswicks was a station in the Underground Railroad. It was in the house of Enoch Middleton on the north side of Crosswicks Creek at



the corner of the Allentown Road. The house was owned by Edward Newbold a few years ago. The Friends were greatly interested in the Underground Railroad and took an active part in the movement. There were stations in Bordentown and Burlington. The station in Burlington was in William Allinson's Drug Store at the corner of High and Union, erected in 1731. The poet Whittier frequently visited his friend William J. Allinson, nephew of William, in the old house which is still standing. The Allinson family was greatly interested in Abolition.

The Post Office at Crosswicks was established on March 25, 1823, and Nathan Satterthwaite was the first Postmaster. Burlington is the oldest Post Office in Burlington County with a continuous existence. It was established on April 1, 1798. Atsion Post Office was established in January, 1798, but discontinued for a number of years.

**TAVERNS.** The oldest tavern in Crosswicks was kept by John Bainbridge, but I do not know where it was located. It dates back at least to 1689. John Bainbridge got in trouble by selling rum to the Indians "on the sly" and was forced out of business by the early settlers.

The next tavern stood at the corner of Main Street and Chesterfield Road and was known in 1882 as "Stead Hotel." It was kept by Joseph Douglas as early as 1776 and he carried on the business until 1802. He was succeeded by his son Benjamin. Another old tavern was known as "The old Red Tavern," or the "Buttonwood Tree," and was a well-known place of entertainment in former times. I do not know where this tavern was located.

**MEETINGS AND MEETING HOUSES.** Chesterfield Monthly Meeting was established in 1684 in the home of Francis Davenport on Crosswicks Creek. When the writer visited the spot in 1932 the log cabin, his first home, was still standing though in a dilapidated condition. The first meetings for worship were held in the Davenport home prior to the erection of the first meeting house in 1693.

Chesterfield Monthly Meeting eventually comprised the following Preparative Meetings: Chesterfield, Bordentown, East Branch, formerly Robbins Meeting, Trenton and Stony Brook, near Princeton. It includes the above meetings now, except Bordentown and East Branch which have been discontinued.

The first meeting house, a small frame building, stood "at or neare the Grave Yard neare Crosswicks Bridge." It was erected in 1693, as stated above. The first meeting for worship was held in it on June 3, 1693. At a Monthly Meeting held in Francis Davenport's house on the "4th of ye 10th mo 1692," the following minute was adopted:

"friends Appointed to Lett the Building of the Meeteing house acquaints this meeteing yt (that) Acording to friends desire they have lett the worke unto John Greene the tearmes of which is inserted in Articles betwixt them and sd Greene."

I am satisfied that the bad spelling is due to the ignorance of the clerk rather than to Friends generally, though education was at a low

ebb in the Society during the first generation that came to this country. At a Monthly Meeting held in 1693 the following minute was adopted, showing that the meeting house was erected in that year:

"At a monthly meeteing at the Meeteing house in Chesterfield ye 4th day of ye 11th mo 1693, the committee reported that they had settled with John Green about the meeting house building and according to agreement paid his 41 pounds 2 shillings, also paid for lime 6s.8d."

The above minute suggests that Crosswicks was first called Chesterfield, though I am inclined to think that it referred to the township. The second meeting house was built of bricks, as the following minute will show:

"At a Monthly Meeting of friends held at their meeting House in Chesterfield ye 2d day of the 3d mo 1706, William Wood and Francis Davenport acquaints this meeting that they have agreed with William Mott for forty Thousand of Good Bricks to be made for forty Pounds with which the meeting is satisfied and desires yt they will take Care to make Articles of their agreement."

The brick meeting house at the top of the hill, opposite the present Methodist Church, served the needs of Friends until the meeting house now standing was erected in 1773. The following minutes will prove interesting:

"At a Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Chesterfield ye 4th of 3rd mo 1773 — Our last Monthly Meeting taking into consideration the necessity of enlarging our Meeting house in order to accommodate ye Quarterly Meeting and sending a report to said Quarter thereof which appointed a Committee to confer with us on that occasion and now several of said Committee being present this Meeting appoints the following Friends, Anthony Sykes, John Bullock, Amos Middleton, Thomas Thorn, James Lawrie, Joseph Horner, Benjamin Clark, Joseph Duer, Jonathan Wright, Stacy Potts, Caleb Shrieve, Amos Wright, Edward Rockhill and Samuel Satterthwait Junior to confer with the committee of the Quarter respecting an addition to said house."

"At a Quarterly Meeting held at Chesterfield the 31st of 5th mo 1773 — One of the Committee appointed to Confer with Friends of Chesterfield Respecting their Meeting house at Crosswicks, reported that some of them had met and Conferred with a Committee of the Monthly Meeting, and were unanimous in their Opinion that it would be best to Build a New House — on consideration whereof the same committee is continued



to confer further with a Committee of Chesterfield Monthly Meeting on the propriety of altering the Old One, or building an Entire New One, and the mode of doing it. And John Hoskins and Jacob Birdsall are added to the Committee."

It was finally decided to build a new one. The present brick meeting house belongs to the "Hicksite" Friends and is almost a duplicate of the one at Buckingham, Pennsylvania. It measures 68' 10" by 43' 8"; the measurements being taken above the water table. The brickwork is Flemish Bond, except the north side which has black-header bricks. The floor is very solid, being constructed of heavy planks. The joists are heavy and closely spaced. A gallery about 16' wide is run around three sides of the building. On the north side it is only 3' wide, below which are the "facing benches" on which the Ministers, Elders and Overseers sat.

The meeting room is almost equally divided by movable shutters that can be closed at the time of Monthly Meeting. Formerly the men and women sat on different sides of the Shutters at Monthly or Preparative Meetings. During meetings for worship they sat on opposite sides of the room separated by an aisle. At the present time we generally sit together on all occasions. The Friends from the rise of the Society recognized the right of women to conduct their own business affairs. In a sense they started the Woman Suffrage Movement. The practice of sitting on opposite sides of the room was apparently based on custom.

There are a number of rings on the floor in the western end that were made by musket barrels. It is supposed that they were made by English or Hessian guns. The wood stove in the eastern end was made at the Atsion Furnace prior to 1772. It was purchased by the meeting in 1772 for 8 pounds, 4 shillings and 4 pence, as shown by the following minute passed by Chesterfield Monthly Meeting held on "Ye 3rd of 12th mo 1772":

"Its reported the stove is erected agreeable to the appointment of last meeting and the Friends appointed to collect money to defray the charges thereof are desired to continue their care and the meeting appoints Stacy Potts, Collector for Trenton on that account.

The famous Crosswicks White Oak stands in the meeting house yard about a hundred feet from the meeting house. It measures 17 feet 6 inches in circumference, breast high, and has a spread of at least 130 feet. It was struck by lightning many years ago, but has since been repaired. Its age is from 235 to 285 years and was a good sized tree at the time of the Revolutionary War. It was in excellent condition the last time that the writer saw it in 1939.

The meeting house has an interesting Revolutionary history. It is strange that the meeting houses of the peaceful Quakers are the most interesting relics of the Revolution in Burlington County. During the skirmish at the bridge near the meeting house several cannon balls

struck the meeting house; one of which, a three pounder, was imbedded in the north wall. It fell out many years ago and was carefully preserved by a neighbor. It was afterwards restored by the Friends Historical Association at its Annual Meeting a number of years ago. It was carefully cemented in so that it will be preserved for future generations.

At the time of the unfortunate Separation of 1827-8 the Society was divided into the "Orthodox" and "Hicksite" branches. The more I study the causes of the separation the more I am ashamed of both sides of the controversy. Separations in a religious organization are always sad affairs. Had there been more love and Christian fellowship on both sides in the separation of the Society of Friends, there might easily have been no separation. The "Hicksites" thought that the Philadelphia Elders had not treated the liberal branch fairly. It was largely a struggle between the Conservatives and the Liberals. In a measure it was a controversy between the city people and those who lived in the country. The "Hicksite" Friends retained most of the properties of the country meetings.

The "Hicksite" or Race Street Friends, as we usually call them today, used the same Discipline as the "Orthodox" for nearly one hundred years and they never officially accepted Elias Hicks' views. The bitterness between the two branches of the Society has almost disappeared and we dwell side by side with a good degree of Christian fellowship. I hope that it will not be long before there is but one Religious Society of Friends in the Philadelphia area.

After the Separation the "Orthodox" Friends met at Joseph Hendrickson's house on Buttonwood Street until they erected a frame meeting house on the Bordentown Road in 1831. The men's end of the meeting house was used as a school room until a regular school house was erected. In 1853 the meeting house was moved north and converted into a school house; the former school house having been sold. A brick meeting house was then erected on the same site. It was the fifth meeting house in Crosswicks. The "Orthodox" meeting was laid down many years ago and they continued to meet in the late Caroline Allinson's home at Yardville. When she sold the farm it met in John R. Hendrickson's home near Crosswicks.

On January 8, 1828, Chesterfield Monthly Meeting met in the meeting house for the last time. It adjourned to meet at the house of Sarah Chapman, "as they could not proceed with the business on account of the presence of an *offender*. But before the adjournment was made it was distinctly stated that their leaving the house we did not relinquish any rights that we were justly entitled to."

After the Separation there was the famous trial over the School Fund at Crosswicks. The Treasurer of the School Fund, who belonged to the "Orthodox" party, refused to turn over the Fund, amounting to \$2,000, and was sued by the "Hicksites." The trial was held at Trenton before the Court of Chancery and the verdict was in favor of the "Orthodox." The late Francis R. Taylor read a very interesting paper at the Friends Historical Association when the cannon ball was restored to the original position.



**YARDVILLE.** I do not know the history of Yardville except that it was originally called "Sand Hills." It is an attractive village. I am very familiar with the Allinson farm. It is located north of the Railroad near Yardville. It was in the hands of the Allinson family for about a hundred years. The last owner of the name was the late Caroline Allinson, who was the last of the family.

A field near the barn was known as the Indian field because a great many Indian relics were found on it which have been carefully preserved. The field is on a sandy knoll near a stream in the woods nearby. The front lane is long and well shaded. There is a family tradition that an Indian was buried near the lane. The house was built in about 1812. It is built of bricks and contained many pieces of old furniture and other curios. It also contained a collection of Indian relics gathered on the farm.

**WALNFORD.** The old Waln Mansion was erected by Richard Waln in 1774. It is sometimes called "Waln's Mills." Richard Waln was born in 1737 and died in 1809. He was in the mercantile business in Philadelphia and accumulated a large fortune. He removed to Monmouth County, New Jersey, in 1774, and purchased a large tract of land and built the house now standing. There is an unconfirmed tradition that he bought the tract from the Rahway Indians for a barrel of cider and a few beads. It might have been true as land was a very cheap commodity in 1774.

Richard Waln established a grist mill which is still in existence, though not running. Walnford is an attractive and interesting village. The Richard Waln property is now owned by Mrs. Richard Waln Meirs.

**CHESTERFIELD.** Chesterfield was formerly called "Reckless-town." It was named in honor of Joseph Reckless, an early settler. There is no historical foundation to the story that the town received its first name from Prince Murat, of Bordentown, who was frequently called "Prince Reckless." Prince Murat arrived in this country after 1816. The two most interesting places in Chesterfield are the old tavern and the grist-mill. The tavern is located in the center of the village at the intersection of the roads leading to Crosswicks and New Egypt. It was originally built before the Revolutionary War but it has been greatly altered.

The property has been traced back to March, 1774, when it was sold by John Holloway to George Hall. George Hall sold it to Joseph Beck in January, 1782, and Joseph Beck sold it to Joseph Brown on June 28, 1788. The latter deed reads as follows:

"Two certain lots or pieces of land in Chesterfield aforesaid, the first lot is bounded as followeth, viz: Beginning at a stump in the line of land formerly Henry Becks standing by the Road leading to Crosswicks runs along the said road N. 16 degrees East 5 ch. to a post then along the said road S. 11 degrees West 5 ch. to a crooked Black Oak then S. 82 degrees East 11 ch. to a post then S. 5 degrees West 9 ch. & 80 links to a

post in said Becks line then along the same N. 82 degrees West 10 ch. & 80 links to the beginning, containing 10 acres of land be the same more or less."

In 1860 Ann Pearce sold the property to George C. Davis for \$7,000. The deed reads in part:

"All the following messuage, tavern house in the village of Recklesstown, Beginning at stone standing on the south side of the road leading from Recklesstown to New Egypt, containing 8, 1/15 acres."

In 1852 Thomas A. Pearce sold it to Ann Pearce for \$3,616; therefore Ann Pearce must have made improvements to the property, as she sold it for \$7,000 in 1860.

The old grist-mill in Chesterfield on the Georgetown Road was erected by Henry Beck and Joseph Scattergood in 1701. A year later Beck sold his interest to Scattergood. The original mill stood on the opposite side of the road, near the stream, from the one now standing. The present mill was erected fully a hundred and ten years ago. Joseph Reckless, for whom the village was first named, bought the mill in 1712. It was in the hands of the Reckless family for many years.

The most interesting farmhouse near Chesterfield was the home of the late Dr. E. Wistar Taylor and is now owned by his daughter Mrs. Frank Wallace, who lives on the farm. It is now known as the "Brookdale Farm." It was surveyed for Samuel Taylor in 1687, who came over from England on the *Martha* in 1677. The farm originally contained 309 acres and has been in the hands of the Taylor family ever since the house was built in 1766.

Brookdale Farm is located on a branch of Black's Creek and on an old Indian trail known as the "Burlington Path," which leads from Burlington to Shrewsbury through Bustleton, Three Tuns and Mansfield Square, crossing the Creek at Ellisdale. It is an interesting brick farmhouse and was built by Anthony Taylor in 1766. The letters and date, A T A, 1766, may be seen on the western gable in black header bricks. The initials stand for Anthony and Anne (Newbold) Taylor. The front lane reaches to the Old York Road and is a mile long. The back lane leading to Chesterfield is more than a mile.

There is an interesting family tradition that the kitchen door was always left unlatched and when the family came down in the morning they frequently found a number of Indians sleeping in the blankets on the floor. Of course they expected breakfast. There is a brick near the front door that was worn smooth by the Indians sharpening their knives.

There is a still more interesting Revolutionary tradition about Anne Newbold Taylor. Anne Taylor was a Quakeress and when the British Army was passing along the Old York Road on the way to Crosswicks in June, 1778, a raiding party was seen coming down the lane intent on plunder. Anne Taylor met them at the door and invited the party to come in and partake of refreshments which she had served.

The raiding party did not molest the property and vanished down the lane while the men were preparing to resist them. A great many raiding parties were sent out and plundered the farmers as the British had to subsist on the country they were passing through.

**BORDENTOWN.** Thomas Farnsworth, sometimes spelled Fairns-worth, arrived on the *Kent* in the fall of 1677 and his wife Susannah followed on the *Shield* in 1678. Bordentown was first known as "Farnsworth Landing." His house, the first built in Bordentown, was located at the northwest corner of Park Avenue and Prince Street. It commanded a beautiful view of the Delaware and the Pennsylvania shore beyond. Thomas Farnsworth was a prominent Friend and his wife was a Minister in the Society.

The Durham Boats were active on the river in the early days. The boat was 40 or 50 feet long, 7 feet wide and very shallow. It would carry five or six hundred bushels of grain or other merchandise. They brought logs or lumber down the river and returned laden with farm products or merchandise. The propelling power was long poles. They were manned by hardy and rough men who would frequently visit the Bordentown taverns.

Joseph Borden, in whose honor Bordentown was named, visited the town in 1724 and was so impressed with its future growth that he bought 105 acres from Samuel Farnsworth, the son of Thomas. He was a member of a prominent family who emigrated to New England in 1635. The family moved from Massachusetts to the neighborhood of Shrewsbury in 1665. Joseph Borden had great faith in the future development of Bordentown, believing that it would eventually be the largest city between Philadelphia and New York. The town is located on a high plateau and commands a splendid view of the river and the country on the other side.

He had so much faith in the future development of the settlement that he sold all lots from the brow of the hill, reserving the river front. The river front was very desirable in the early days as water transportation was the only means available. There were very few carriages and wagons on the roads before the second quarter of the 18th Century.

Joseph Borden established a stage line between Philadelphia and New York in 1734. The passengers took the stage-boat from Amboy to Perth Amboy; the stage to Bordentown and the stage-boat to Philadelphia, "weather permitting." He gave the lot on which the Friends' first meeting house was erected in 1740. It is still standing and is located on the west side of Farnsworth Avenue south of the railroad. The Friends' Meeting was laid down in 1905 and the building is now used for offices.

Benjamin Franklin passed through Bordentown on foot in 1723 en route from Boston to Burlington and Philadelphia. Franklin mentions in his Autobiography that he stopped at Dr. Brown's Tavern and found him to be alert and familiar with all the countries of the world. The writer does not know where Dr. Brown's tavern was located. It is supposed to have been where the Washington House is located at the northeast corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Park Street.



Francis Hopkinson, who wrote "The Battle of the Kegs," eminent scientist, artist and musician, lived in Bordentown for many years. He married Nancy Borden, daughter of Joseph Borden. His son, Judge Joseph Hopkinson, who wrote "Hail Columbia," was an intimate friend of Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Spain. The Hopkinson House, where the father and son lived, located at the southeast corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Park Street, is one of the oldest houses in Bordentown. It was built by John Imlay in 1750. It originally had a colonial roof and was ruined, from an architectural standpoint, by the addition of a Mansard roof by a former owner. The property is now owned by Judge Harold Wells, popularly known as "Skip" Wells. Thomas Paine lived in Bordentown for a number of years at the northwest corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Church Street. Paine's principal resort was the Washington House at the corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Park Street. Had he not written *The Age of Reason* he would have been a much greater man in America. He wrote *The Age of Reason* in Paris at the time of the Revolution. He was a Deist and not an Athiest. It is said that the driver of a stage coach at Trenton declined to sell him a ticket to New York on account of the book.

Thomas Paine was the author of *The Crisis* and *The Rights of Man*; the former was an inspiration to the soldiers in the field. He took part in the Battle of Trenton, at which time he wrote the immortal words: "These are the times that try men's souls." Paine was an intimate friend of Col. Joseph Kirkbride, of Pennsylvania, who frequently visited his friend in Bordentown.

The first section of the Camden and Amboy Railroad was made from Bordentown to Amboy. There is one of the original stones for ballast just outside of the town. It was built in 1831 and extended through Burlington to Camden in 1834. John Bull was the first engine used on the Camden and Amboy. The writer had an opportunity to ride on the John Bull in 1893. As a young man he happened to be at Princeton Junction when it passed by under its own steam on its way to the Chicago Exposition. Needless to say, that I jumped on and rode a short distance down the track.

Bordentown has a very interesting Revolutionary history. Count von Donop entered Bordentown on December 14, 1776, expecting to make it his comfortable quarters for the winter. General Howe had placed von Donop in command of the posts at Trenton, Bordentown and Burlington. His dream was disturbed by the activities of the Americans under command of Col. Griffin at Mount Holly.

When the British occupied Philadelphia in the winter of 1777-78 the residents along the Delaware up to Bordentown were in constant fear of attack. Kegs were loaded with powder, some twenty of them, and floated down the river from Bordentown. They were attached to buoys. The very night they were floated down the British ships that they were intended to destroy were towed to shore at Philadelphia for the winter. The kegs attracted the attention of a barge, whose crew attempted to take up a keg, which exploded, killing four. The explosion aroused the city and alarm was given. Soldiers along the shore fired

at every stick or log, causing merriment to the Whigs and vexation to the Tories. Then it was that Francis Hopkinson wrote the satirical poem "The Battle of the Kegs."

An expedition was sent up the river to Bordentown on May 7, 1778. It consisted of two row galleys, three armed vessels and twenty-four flat bottomed boats, carrying 608 infantry. Above Burlington the expedition was annoyed by the American Militia. The Americans destroyed a number of the vessels at White Hill. The enemy plundered many of the houses, including Col. Borden's. Bellevue, the Bucks County home of Col. Joseph Kirkbride, was burned by the British.

Polly Richie, a young lady of good family and many accomplishments, pointed out the Whig homes and urged them to burn Colonel Borden's. Polly was a belle at the *Mischianza*, a "Farewell Extravaganza" to Sir William Howe, who was succeeded by Sir Henry Clinton. She was a friend of Benedict Arnold.

While Col. Borden's house was burning, the elder Mrs. Borden sat on the street and watched it burn. An English officer approached the old lady and said: "Madam, I have a mother and can feel for you." She replied: "I thank you, Sir, but this is the happiest day of my life. I know that you have given up all hope of reconquering my country or you would not thus wantonly devastate it."

**BONAPARTE PARK.** Joseph Bonaparte, brother of the great Napoleon, and ex-King of Spain, arrived in the United States in 1815. When I was a small boy they used to call Jerseymen "Spaniards" for the reason that he was once King of Spain. He was known as the Count de Surveilliers in this country. Joseph Bonaparte purchased 1000 acres near Bordentown and called it "Point Breeze." Pennsylvania had refused to sell land to a foreigner. New Jersey passed a law which enabled him to hold land in the state.

Bonaparte found a house standing on the premises in which he lived while his house was being built. It was then removed to north Farnsworth Avenue and later became the residence of Mahlon Hutchinson. Joseph Bonaparte's house was burned on January 3, 1820, while he was in Trenton. He lived in the stable while his new house was being constructed. He was very popular with Bordentown people and thanked them cordially for trying to save his house. Joseph Bonaparte was married but his wife never came to this country.

A good story was told about him and Stephen Girard in the Sunday Dispatch on January 28, 1877. He and Girard were good friends. It appears that Bonaparte was trying to buy the block between 11th and 12th streets and offered to cover it with silver half dollars. Girard immediately replied that he would accept the offer if he would stand them on edge! Girard knew that the block in question would some day be valuable. The Girard Estate owns most of the block now.

There is a story about a mysterious tunnel from the old house to Crosswicks Creek to allow Joseph Bonaparte to escape. In a letter from A. Mailliard, Secretary to Joseph Bonaparte, to E. M. Woodward, author of "Bonaparte Park and the Murat," Mailliard says:

"I will now refer to some nonsense that I have read about some subteranean galleries, etc, built by Joseph to escape from his home. The truth is simply this: When Joseph built the Lake House for his daughter Zenaide and her household, he connected it by an underground gallery with the main house, for the facility of service and for her own use in bad weather."

Joseph Bonaparte had two daughters, Princess Zenaide and Charlotte Julia, who married her cousin, Charles Lucien, son of Lucien Bonaparte. Prince Charles was a Naturalist and was associated with Alexander Wilson in publishing "American Ornithology or the Natural History of Birds in America." Joseph Bonaparte resembled his brother Napoleon, though taller and somewhat less stout. His manners were elegant. While at the Park he was visited by a delegation from Mexico who offered him the Crown. Bonaparte declined saying that he would rather be a Jersey farmer than be King. General LaFayette visited the Park in 1824 when he returned to the Country.

Prince Napoleon Francois Lucien Charles Murat's father, Joachim Murat, married Napoleon's sister, Caroline Bonaparte. The Prince was a gay young blade and very extravagant. A good story is told about him and a balky horse. The horse balked and he ordered his servant to get some straw and place it under the horse. Setting fire to the straw the Prince sailed down the road in great glee. His first home was in or near Columbus, purchased from Moses Wills on August 2, 1826. The house is still standing on the south side of the road leading to Burlington. Then he bought a farm near the Park of about 100 acres and later lived on the Recklesstown pike "near the old pottery."

He married Caroline Georgina Fraser, daughter of Major Fraser, a Scottish Officer in the British Army. It is said to have been a pure love match and that both families objected to their marriage. One afternoon they drove to Trenton and were married in St. Michael's Episcopal Church. The Prince was tall and looked like an aristocrat. He went through his own fortune and his wife's also. She afterwards opened a boarding school for girls in "Linden Hall" on Park Street near the entrance to the Park. It became fashionable to send a girl to Mrs. Fraser's school, the wife of a Prince.

Joseph Bonaparte went to England in 1839. There was a sale of his effects in 1845. The writer has a cut glass tumbler that was sold at the sale. The auctioneer said at the sale that the glass was given to Joseph Bonaparte by his brother Napoleon. Henry Beckett purchased part of the Park and built the house now standing.

Patience Wright, who is supposed to be the first woman sculptor in this country, lived in Bordentown for awhile. Richard Watson Gilder lived on Crosswicks Street above the Clara Barton Schoolhouse. He was a celebrated poet.

**CLARA BARTON SCHOOLHOUSE.** This famous little schoolhouse, so closely associated with the founder of the American Red Cross, is located at the corner of Crosswicks and Burlington Streets.



Although the year 1839 appears on the front of the building, it is supposed to have been built in about 1787 and formerly stood on or near the site of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church on West Street, near Farnsworth Avenue.

Her real name was Clarissa Harlowe Barton, but she is generally known as Clara Barton. In 1852 Clara Barton, then a gifted and successful teacher, later to become a greatly beloved war nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, came to Bordentown. She had noticed a number of little boys playing on the streets and urged the school authorities to establish a free school for boys. The boys' parents could not afford to send them to private schools and were too proud to send them to the free *pauper schools* of that period.

The authorities at first were not interested, but finally were impressed by her earnestness when she offered to teach the school without pay for three months, and they consented to try the experiment. The school was opened in the old brick schoolhouse at the corner of Crosswicks and Burlington Streets, with six boys in attendance. The school was a success from the beginning and in less than a year the building was so crowded that it was found necessary to erect a larger building. The school is considered the first public school in New Jersey.

A two-story schoolhouse was erected on Crosswicks Street and was soon filled to capacity. The authorities objected to having a woman, no matter how brilliant, in charge of such a large school and a man was appointed Principal with Clara Barton as one of his assistants. Miss Barton resigned and in 1854 moved to Washington, D. C. She was a gifted teacher and it is said that she never resorted to corporal punishment, as she thought that if a teacher really interested the pupils, discipline would not be required.

In 1921 the Clara Barton schoolhouse was restored by contributions from the children of New Jersey. The title is now held by the State Board of Education. The schoolhouse is well cared for as there is a small charge of admission.















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